

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS
ARRESTED ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

PASS SCS

REFTEL QUESTION A. LEGAL COUNSEL IS PROVIDED GRATIS TO IMPOVERISHED PRISONERS INCLUDING U.S. NATIONAL S WHO ARE BEING TRIED ON CRIMINA CHARGES IN "CRIMINAL COURTS". EXAMPLES OF CRIMINAL CASES ARE MURDER, ARSON, TERRORISM AND SERIOUS POLITICAL OFFENCES WHERE A SENTENCE MAY BE MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AND UP TO THE DEATH PENALTY. IN TUNISIA THERTLWQ ALO A "CORRECTIONAL COURT" WHERE PETTY OFFENCES, RAPE AND ALL DRUG VIOLATIONS ARE TRIED. THE MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE IN A "CORRECTIONAL COURT" IF FIVE YEARS AND POSSIBLY A FINE; FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT PROVIDED EVEN THOUGH PRISON SENTENCES OR ESPECIALLY FINES MAY BE HEAVY. QUESTION B. FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS READILY AVAILABLE IN "CRIMINAL COURT" CASES ONLY; NONE IN "CORRECTIONAL COURT" CASES. QUESTION C. TUNISIAN LEGAL SERVICES ARE BEST WHEN DEFENDENTS CAN PAY. PUBLIC DEFENDERS, WHO RECEIVE NO RENUMERATION, ARE ASSIGNED IN NEEDY "CRIMINAL COURT" CASES BY THE TUNISIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION.

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